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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

Monday, January 1, 1945

SUBJECT: Wartime Discoveries and Our Postwar Homes. Information from research workers of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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Here we are...with a whole new year ahead of us. If you're like me..you may have lots to do...but right now on the first of January it seems like we have plenty of time to do it in. So today....let's sit back and think about the future.

One of my friends is buying war bonds now in hopes of building her new home as soon as they mature. Now don't laugh. She does have a good long time to map out the last details....but she's already started planning. And she's getting a lot of fun worrying over them. For example, the other day she said, "What on earth am I going to do with the flies and roaches that are sure to get in somehow?"

Well, my friend hadn't heard then about the new fly spray that's been developed recently by the scientific research workers of the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. This new spray is just what she'll need. It's odorless....non-irritating and deadly when used on almost any household insect pest you can think of. The spray is to be used in the new automatic spraying device called the aerosol bomb.

What's an aerosol bomb? An aerosol bomb is a small handy can dispenser with some liquefied gas in it. You put it in a room...open the valve and it releases a foglike spray. The poisonous droplets are so tiny they kill more insects than ordinary coarse wet sprays do.

Right now...of course....none of these little aerosol bombs are being made for civilians. They're all going to the United States Army and Navy. Already some 13 million of them have been put to use by the armed forces. Because they're getting

such

such a thorough testing now....we can be pretty sure they'll be on the market.... ready for us to use when the war is over.

By combining the new odorless fly spray with the new type of dispenser... we'll have something household insect pests simply can't face. It's one of the wartime discoveries that's going to mean better living at home after the war.

And talking about new insecticides....well....there's DDT. It's that famous powder our boys overseas and here too....for that matter...use to kill disease-spreading insects. All the DDT made now goes to them. But comes the end of the war...the end of military need for DDT...and we'll begin to capitalize on the research now being done. Of course...the entomologists who developed DDT say there's still a lot of experimenting to be done with it before we can put it to the best practical use at home and on the farm.

They've got to find out whether DDT injures plants, animals or man. How much of it is required to control the different insect pests....what's the best way to apply it...can it be sold at reasonable prices...and so on for a number of questions. Nevertheless.....there's little doubt but that DDT is another discovery that'll help make the world a better place to live in after it's served its war-time purposes.

Turning from insecticides to cotton goods...we come to a new....more comfortable bandage that's been developed by the Southern Regional Research Laboratory. Here's how it's different from the cotton gauze we use now. This has elasticity so it can cling tightly...but at the same time...it allows for greater movement of an injured joint. The new bandage is really cotton gauze treated with chemicals to give it a rough surface. And the rough surface keeps the layers of gauze from slipping like our untreated cotton gauze bandages do. That'll mean ever so much to the comfort of surgery cases in hospitals...or even to Junior when he cuts his hand whittling. But like many other wartime discoveries this is not yet on the market for us.

A lot of food has changed shape since the war started. The process of dehydrating has improved. A number of foods have been sent overseas in concentrated form because shipping space became a problem. But your guess is about as good as anybody's on just how many of these new type foods will stick after the war.

One thing's rather certain. After the war, manymore people will want to take up quick freezing as a way to preserve food at home. Of course, the equipment for home freezing can't be manufactured until then. In fact, it's still in the process of being improved.

In the dead of winter...won't it be good to go, not to the pantry, but to the freezer locker and get out fruits and vegetables that taste like they've just come from the garden? And when the family hints that maybe you're running up the food bill serving fried chicken this time of year....you could tell them, "Oh no. I froze this chicken back in the spring when we had plenty of fryers.

Commercial food freezing companies are planning new ways to sell frozen foods too. There may come a day when the frozen food man knocks on your door offering fruit pies and other "made" dishes...all ready to cook.

Some stuff....huh?

Well...here we are. A whole New Year ahead of us. We've lots to do before the war will be over. But isn't it fun to think about all the new discoveries and developments you and I will use when the time comes?

And now...the best New Year ever to you in 1945!

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